A **Error Messages**

This appendix contains an alphabetical listing of the messages that MS-DOS displays when it is unable to perform a requested task.

Most of the messages you may encounter when using MS-DOS refer to problems in reading from or writing to devices such as disk drives or printers. These messages are called device errors.

Another form of message appears as a result of problems with a diskette or disk drive. These are called disk errors.

Other messages that you may encounter from time to time are related to the specific command or task that you are trying to perform. Included in the following list of messages, is the name of the command associated with the displayed message.

Device Errors

Device error messages all take the same form. They are displayed as:

```
<type> error reading/writing <device>
Abort, Retry, Ignore?__
```

where <type> represents one of the following:

Bad call format
Bad command
Bad unit
Data
Disk
No paper
Non-DOS disk
Not ready
Read fault
Sector not found
Seek
Write fault
Write protect

When you receive one of these messages, you have the choice of doing one of the following:

- enter **A** for abort. This ends the program that requested the read or write.

- enter **R** for Retry. This causes your computer to reattempt the operation. Correct the problem that caused this message, if you can, and press **R** for Retry.·

- enter **I** for Ignore. This causes your computer to ignore the problem and attempt to continue the program. If you choose this option, you may lose some data. Be careful.

These device error messages are described along with the rest of the error messages in the following list of MS-DOS messages.

Disk Errors

If a disk read or write error occurs at any time during a
command process or when you are running an applica-
tion program, MS-DOS displays an error message in
the following format:

<yyy> ERROR WHILE <I/O action> ON DRIVE x
Abort, Ignore, Retry:___

In this format, <yyy> may be one of the following:

WRITE PROTECT
BAD UNIT
NOT READY
BAD COMMAND
DATA
BAD CALL FORMAT
SEEK
NON-DOS DISK
SECTOR NOT FOUND
NO PAPER
WRITE FAULT
READ FAULT
DISK

<I/O action> is either READING or WRITING

The drive designation <x> is the drive where the problem occurred.

Enter either **A, I,** or **R** as noted above in order to proceed with your choice of action.

Allocation error, size adjusted (CHKDSK)

The file allocation table contains an invalid sector number. The file is truncated at the end of the last valid sector. CHKDSK has automatically performed the only remedy available at this point.

Bad call format error (device error)

A request header of incorrect length was passed to a device driver. Contact your dealer for more information.

Bad command error (device error)

A device driver has issued an invalid command to the named device. Contact your dealer for more information.

Bad unit error (device error)

An invalid subunit number has been sent to a device driver. Contact your dealer for more information.

Cannot CHDIR to root
Processing cannot continue (CHKDSK)

The disk you are checking is faulty. Restart MS-DOS and try to RECOVER the disk.

Cannot do binary reads from a device (COPY)

You have tried to use the /B option with the name of a device. Place an /A option after the device name to copy in ASCII mode.

Cannot edit .BAK file - rename file (EDLIN)

You have tried to edit a file that has a .BAK extension. Either edit instead the more up to date version of the file, or rename the .BAK file before attempting to edit it.

Data error (device error)

Data could not be read/written correctly because of a faulty disk. Restart MS-DOS and try to RECOVER the disk.

Disk error (device error)

An error has occurred reading from or writing to a disk. Attempt to correct the problem and reattempt this operation.

Disk error writing FAT (CHKDSK)

An error occurred while CHKDSK was trying to update the file allocation table. Copy the diskette and reattempt the procedure. If this does not work, try to RECOVER the disk. If this does not work, the diskette is irreparably damaged.

Disk full - file write not completed (EDLIN)

The diskette you are using does not have enough space to save all of the file. Part of the file may have been saved on the diskette, but the remainder that has not been saved is lost. This is an unrecoverable error. Repeat your edit using a diskette with sufficient storage space.

Drive not ready (PRINT)

If this message appears while PRINT attempts a disk access, PRINT keeps trying until the drive is ready. Any other error cancels the current file. In this case, an error message is printed on your printer.

Duplicate file name or file not found (RENAME)

An attempt has been made to rename a file with a file-name that already exists on the destination disk, or the file to be renamed could not be found on the specified disk drive.

Entry error (EDLIN)

You have incorrectly entered an EDLIN command. Reenter the command.

File cannot be copied into itself (COPY)

A request was made to COPY a file and place the copy (with the same name) in the same directory as the source file. Either change the name given to the copy or put it on another diskette or directory.

File creation error (MS-DOS and commands)

An unsuccessful attempt was made to add a new file to the directory. Run CHKDSK to determine the cause of the error.

Filename is cross linked on cluster (CHKDSK)

You have two files cross linked. Make a copy of the file
you want to keep, and then delete both files that are
cross linked.

Filename must be specified (EDLIN)

You did not specify a filename when you started
EDLIN. Specify a filename.

File not found (EDLIN)

The file you named in the Transfer command does not
exist. Check your file name selection and try again.

File not found (MS-DOS and commands)

The file named in a command does not exist on the disk
in the specified drive. Check your filename entry or
drive selection and try again.

FIND: File not found <**filename**> (FIND)

The file you specified does not exist on the drive. Check
your filename entry or drive selection and try again.

FIND: Invalid number of parameters (FIND)

A string was omitted when specifying a FIND command. Reenter the command with the search string.

FIND: Invalid parameter <option-name> (FIND)

An invalid parameter was entered with the FIND command. Reenter the command with a valid parameter.

FIND: Read error in <filename> (FIND)

An error occurred when FIND tried to read the file specified in the command. Reattempt the command after correcting an obvious problem (disk drive door open, no disk, etc.). Try to RECOVER the file.

FIND: Syntax error (FIND)

You entered an illegal string with the FIND command. Reenter the correct string.

First cluster number is invalid, entry truncated (CHKDSK)

An invalid pointer to the data area has been found in the file whose name precedes this message. If /F was specified, the file is truncated to zero length. This is an irrecoverable error.

Fixups needed-base segment (hex): (EXE2BIN)

The source (.EXE) file contained information indicating that a load segment is required for the file. Specify the absolute segment address at which the finished module is to be located.

Incompatible system size (SYS)

The hidden files IO.SYS and MSDOS.SYS do not take up the same amount of space on the target diskette as the new system needs. Use the same version of MS-DOS to move these files.

Insufficient disk space (MS-DOS and commands)

There is not enough free space on the diskette to save the file or perform the MS-DOS operation. Use another diskette. You may have lost some data as a result of the operation that caused this message to appear.

Insufficient room in root directory
Erase files in root and repeat CHKDSK

CHKDSK cannot create an entry in the root directory for saving lost chains as files (see message "X lost clusters found in Y chains/ Convert lost chains to files(Y/ N)?") because the root directory is full. You should copy some files from the root directory to another disk, then enter another CHKDSK command.

Invalid current directory
Processing cannot continue (CHKDSK)

CHKDSK has found an error in the disk's current
directory. Restart your computer and rerun CHKDSK.

Invalid date (DATE)

You have tried to enter an invalid date. Review the
DATE command parameters in Chapter 5 and reenter
the date.

Invalid drive name or file (EDLIN)

You did not specify a valid drive or filename when you
started EDLIN. Check your entry and try again.

Invalid drive specification (MS-DOS and
commands)

You have entered an invalid drive specifier in a com-
mand. Check your entry and try again.

Invalid number of parameters (commands)

You have entered the wrong number of parameters on
the command line. Refer to the syntax of the command
you have selected and try again.

Invalid parameter (commands)

You have entered an incorrect parameter. Refer to the syntax of the command you have selected and try again.

Invalid subdirectory (CHKDSK)

The subdirectory contains invalid information. Rerun the CHKDSK command with the /V option for further information.

Invalid time (TIME)

You have entered an invalid time or the wrong punctuation mark. Refer to the TIME command syntax and try again.

Line too long (EDLIN)

During the (R)eplace command operation, the string given as the replacement caused the line to expand beyond the 253-character limit. The (R)eplace command has not been properly performed. Break the long line into shorter lines and try again.

**List output is not assigned
to a device** (PRINT)

You have specified an invalid device. Specify a valid
list device.

Must specify destination number (EDLIN)

You have not specified a destination number for a
(C)opy or (M)ove command. Enter a destination number
when you try again.

No files match <filespec> (PRINT)

You have entered a file specification for files to add to
the print queue, but no files match your entry. Check
your filenames and try again. NOTE: If there are no
files in the print queue, a message does not appear.

Non DOS disk error (device error)

The file allocation table on the diskette contains invalid
information. If you have inserted the correct diskette, it
must be reFORMATted. Attempt to copy important
files from this diskette to another before
you FORMAT this diskette.

No paper error (device error)

Your printer is not powered ON or it is out of paper.
Check your printer and try again.

**No room for system on
destination disk** (SYS)

There is not enough room on the target diskette for the
IO.SYS and MS-DOS.SYS files. You are using different
versions of MS-DOS. Use the same version for this
operation.

No room in directory for file (EDLIN)

The directory of the specified disk is already full, or the
specified disk drive or file name is illegal. Use another
diskette or check your entry and try again.

**Not enough room to merge
the entire file** (EDLIN)

There is not enough room in your computer's memory to
enable a Transfer command to merge the entire
contents of the files. Break the files into smaller files
and try again.

Not ready error (device error)

The device you've selected is not ready for the read/write operation you've requested. Check the device and try again.

Out of environment space

You have attempted to access the PATH command from BASIC. This is not allowed.

PRINT queue is empty (PRINT)

There are no files in the print queue. Files must be placed in the print queue before they can be printed.

PRINT queue is full (PRINT)

You cannot place more than ten files in a print queue.

Probable non-DOS disk
Continue (Y/N)? (CHKDSK)

The disk you are using is a non-MS-DOS diskette. Indicate whether or not you want CHKDSK to continue.

Read fault error (device error)

MS-DOS cannot read the requested data from the named device. Check your entry and try again.

Read error in <filename> (commands)

The command you've entered could not read the entire file. Try again. If the problem persists, try to RECOVER the file.

Sector not found error (device error)

The sector containing the requested data cannot be found or cannot be read. This is usually due to a bad sector on the diskette or disk. Try to RECOVER the diskette. If this does not solve the problem, the data is lost.

Seek error (device error)

The diskette drive cannot find the proper track on the diskette. Try again. If the problem persists, the diskette is probably damaged and cannot be recovered.

Unrecoverable error in directory
Convert directory to file (Y/N)? (CHKDSK)

To convert the problem directory to a file, press **Y**. You can then repair or delete the directory at a later time.

Write fault error (device error)

MS-DOS cannot successfully write data from or to the named device. Check your entry and try again.

Write protect error (device error)

You have tried to write data onto a diskette that is write-protected. Check the diskette to be sure that you want to write to or change information on this diskette.

X lost cluster found in y chains
Convert lost chains to files (Y/N)?

CHKDSK has found lost clusters on your diskette. These may be parts of data files that have somehow been separated from their original files. If you press **Y**, these clusters are written into files that are placed in the root directory under the name(s) FILEnnnnnn. You can then attempt to repair damaged files or delete these safety files.

CHKDSK then displays:

```
X bytes disk space freed
```

If you select **N** and have not specifed the /F option of CHKDSK, the clusters are freed (deleted), and the message

```
X bytes disk space would be freed
```

appears on your screen.